

Updated for amendments adopted through May 8, 2007.

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *</b>				
	<b>FY 2007-08</b>		<b>FY 2008-09</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS	633,701		1,220,776	
CASH FUNDS	31,666		59,347	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>665,367</b>		<b>1,280,123</b>	

\*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

This bill, as amended, will increase the salaries of Supreme Court judges, and it also changes the allocation of judges in county, district, and juvenile courts. The bill has the emergency clause, and is operative on July 1, 2007.

The following table provides additional information regarding the increase in judges' salaries:

Court	Percent to Supreme Court Judges Salary	Current Salary	Proposed Salary (rounded to nearest dollar)	
			July 1 2007	July 1 2008
Supreme	100.0%	\$ 126,846	\$ 131,286	\$ 135,881
Appeals	95.0%	\$ 120,504	\$ 124,722	\$ 129,087
District, Juvenile & Workers Compensation	92.5%	\$ 117,333	\$ 121,440	\$ 125,690
County	90.0%	\$ 114,162	\$ 118,158	\$ 122,293

This amended bill also makes the following changes in the allocation of judges:

District No.	Number of Judges		
	Current	Proposed	Change
12 (County Court)	6	5	(1)
Juvenile Court Judge	3	4	1
12 (District Court)	5	4	(1)
9 (District Court)	3	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0</b>

The amended bill reduces a county and district court judge in District No. 12. This district contains the counties of Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Grant, and Deuel.

The amended bill adds a juvenile court judge in counties having at least two hundred thousand inhabitants but less than four hundred thousand inhabitants (only Lancaster County), and it adds a district court judge in district number 9 (Buffalo and Hall counties).

The net impact is zero judges added. District court judges are paid the same salary and have a court reporter, so this cost nets out to zero. However, a county court judge is paid a lower salary than a juvenile court judge, and a juvenile court judge also has a court reporter.

The increase in expenditures associated with this bill is estimated in the following table that uses information from the Nebraska Supreme Court (NSC) and the Workers Compensation Court (WCC):

ITEM:	FY2007-2008	FY2008-2009
Supreme Court Judges' Salaries	31,528	64,159
Court Of Appeals Judges' Salaries	25,675	52,245
District And Juvenile Court Judges' Salaries	274,992	559,560
County Court Judges' Salaries	235,129	478,436
Workers Compensation Court Judges' Salaries	29,166	59,347
Court Reporter, Benefits & Travel	66,377	66,377
Judicial Education for new Juvenile Court Judge (National Judicial College)	2,500	0
TOTAL	665,367	1,280,124

IMPACT ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS: District and juvenile courts: Only the judges' salaries and benefits are paid for by the state. All other expenses are paid for by the counties (bailiffs, office space, supplies, furniture, equipment, etc.). County Courts: Counties pay for office space, and the state pays for county court employees and expenses. Counties that are adding a judge may have additional costs, and counties losing a judge should realize a cost savings. These fiscal impacts are unknown at this time.